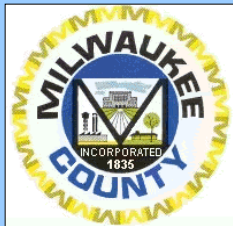


# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County (2<sup>ND</sup> Edition)



## Milwaukee County Department on Aging Older Adult Demographics Project

Prepared by the Milwaukee County Department  
on Aging and E j j Olson & Associates

**July 2004**



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Commission on Aging**

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# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

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# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Executive Summary

### Introduction

Milwaukee County's older adult population can be described as diverse and growing. The social and economic issues faced by older adults are complex and cannot be based on broad generalizations. Each category of the older adult population whether it be age, gender, race, or ethnicity, all face similar but often times different issues while aging. Some face financial difficulties, others experience health related issues, while some encounter both. Regardless of the issue older adults remain important members of our community. In addition, many older adults are choosing to defer retirement while others remain active in the community volunteering their time and energy. Whether working, volunteering, or socializing older adults continue to be a vital asset to Milwaukee County.

The purpose of this sourcebook is to serve as Milwaukee County's comprehensive up-to date resource concerning its elderly population presenting information in narrative, data table, and graphic formats. The comprehensive information discussed throughout this report is based primarily on the demographic analysis of 1990 and 2000 Census data developed by the qualitative efforts of Gary Portenier of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging in the document, *The Face of Aging in Milwaukee (2nd Edition)*. Additional sources of information include, *Now at sixty what I see...Assessing the Needs of Older Adults in Milwaukee County*, a product of Milwaukee County's Connecting Caring Communities work groups, the United Way's, *The Changing Face of Greater Milwaukee*, and other pertinent reports and data sources.

### Changing Demographics

Throughout the 20th century the United States has seen the growth of the older adult population (to be defined as persons 60 or older) rapidly exceed the growth of the overall population. This trend will continue well into the 21st century as the Baby Boomer generation reaches retirement age. This cohort will contribute to substantial

growth in both the percentage and actual number of older adults throughout the United States. The number of older adults in the country has multiplied by a factor of 11, from 3 million in 1900 to 35 million in the year 2000. During this same period, the population of those 64 and younger only tripled (U.S. Census Bureau, Hobbs, 1997; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

By the middle of the 21st century, the Census Bureau projects that the number of persons 65 years old or older will have more than doubled to 80 million. The most rapid growth in the elderly population will occur when the Baby Boom population reaches 65 beginning in the year 2010 (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1995).

### Elderly Living Longer

Americans are living longer, due in part to improved health care services. While the number of people age 65 and older is increasing rapidly, the number of people living longer (into their 80s and 90s) is increasing at an even faster rate. From 1950 to 1998, the average life expectancy at birth increased approximately 9 years to 79.5 years for women and 73.8 years for men (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998).

### Wisconsin's Aging Population

The 2000 U.S. Census found that Wisconsin's total population consisted of 702,553 adults age 65 years old or older representing 13.1% of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The percentage of older adults in Wisconsin is higher than the national average of 12.4%. The proportion of older adults is expected to remain relatively stable until the Baby Boomers reach retirement age causing a dramatic increase in the elderly population. By 2010, it is projected there will be 766,626 persons 65 and older in Wisconsin making up 13.3% of the population. That number will increase to 1,022,359 persons 65 and older in 2020 (16.7%) and 1,336,384 by the year 2030, or 20.8% (Wisconsin Department of Administration).

# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

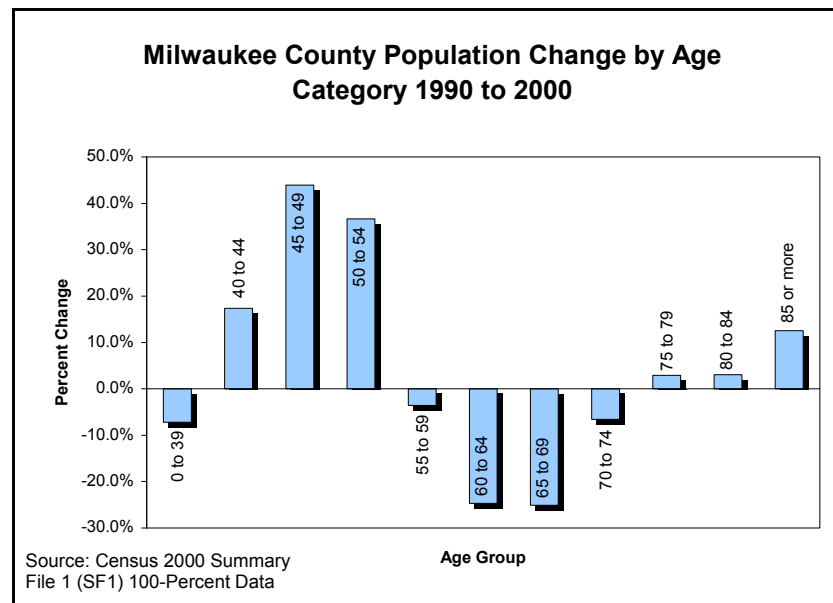
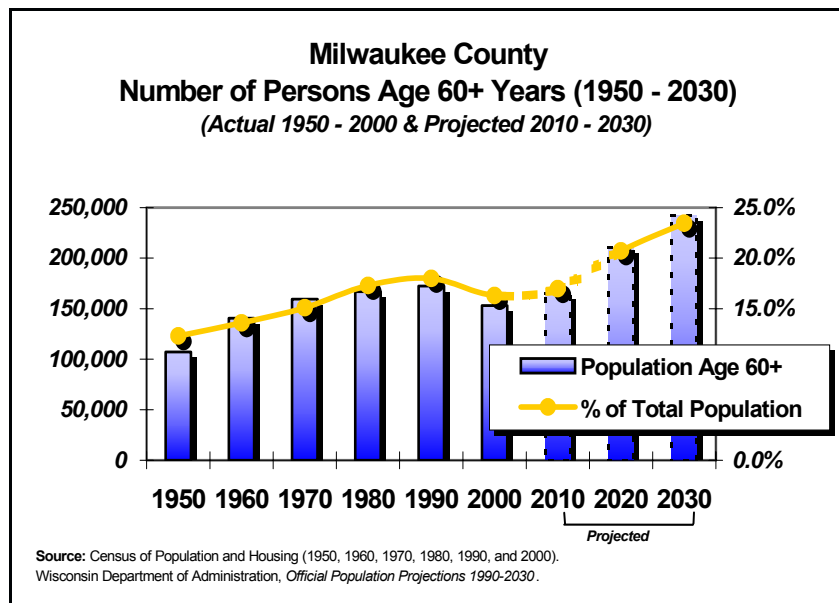
## Executive Summary

### Milwaukee County's Aging Population

With the exception of the 1990s, the latter half of the 20th Century saw Milwaukee County's older adult residents make up an increasing proportion of the total population (see graphs below). The number of persons age 60 or older increased 61.0% from 107,114 persons in 1950 to 172,415 persons in 1990, from 12.3% to 18.0% of the total population. In 2000, there were 153,189 persons 60 and older, or 16.3% of the total population. Changes in mortality rates have affected the growth in the elderly population. The decline in death rates at younger ages has meant that more persons survive to age 60 and become part of the older adult population. During the same period the average life expectancy has increased for persons who attain age 60. Projections indicate that by 2010 there will be 165,348 persons 60 and older, 16.9% of the total population. By 2020, the population will reach 210,350 (20.7%) and by 2030 reach 241,984 (23.5%) (Wisconsin Department of Administration).

The decrease in the older population in the 1990s resulted from two primary factors: (1) the majority of persons who reached age 60 during the decade were born during the Great Depression when birth rates were low and (2) a number of older persons moved out of Milwaukee County preceding or following retirement. While the overall older adult population decreased during the 1990s, persons 85 or older increased 12.5% from 14,673 to 16,512 making it the fastest growing age group of the older adult population. We can infer from the graph below how the Baby Boomers will soon be affecting the elderly population.

The following pages summarize the findings of the report, *The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County (2nd Edition)*, and includes an overview of health and disability information. An appendix to this report that includes further detailed maps and charts from the full report is also available.



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Demographic Highlights

**Older adults comprise 16.3% of the total population of Milwaukee County.**

The 60 and older population of Milwaukee County numbers 153,189 persons. The majority of this population are self-sustaining, vital, and contributing members of the community.

**Milwaukee County's older adult population declined 11.2% from 172,415 in 1990 to 153,189 in 2000.**

The decrease in the population is a result of two primary factors: (1) the majority who reached age 60 during the decade were born during the Great Depression when birth rates were low and (2) some older adults moved out of Milwaukee county after retirement.

**The number of minority elders in Milwaukee County is growing and has partially offset the decrease among white elderly.**

While the total number of White elders declined from 156,745 in 1990 to 129,931 in 2000, the total number of minority elders increased 15,670 to 23,258. Over the decade, the total number of Black or African American elders increased 39.1%, the number of Asian and Pacific Islander elders increased 77.0%, and the number of Hispanic or Latino elders increased 51.5%. (See graph below)

**The fastest growing segment of the older adult population is among persons age 85 or older**

Since 1950 persons age 85 or older increased 477%. The total number of individuals age 85 or older grew from 2,860 in 1950 to 16,512 in 2000. From 1990 to 2000, this group increased 12.5% from 14,673 to 16,512. (See graph below)

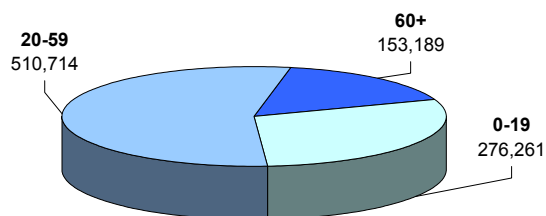
**Minorities age 65+ are at greater risk of living in poverty**

While the poverty rate for older White adults is 6.7%, the poverty rate for older Black or African American adults is 20.1%. For older American Indian and Alaska Native adults the poverty rate is 25.0%, for Asian elders 12.1%, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander elders 26.3%, Some Other Race 27.4%, and for Hispanic or Latino elders 19.4%.

**Nearly one-third of all older adults live alone**

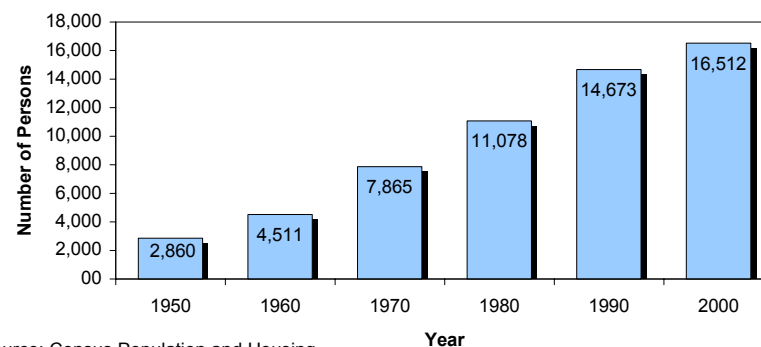
More than 47,500 Milwaukee County adults age 60 and older live alone. Since women generally live longer than men, women are more likely than men to live alone.

**Milwaukee County's Total Population by Age Category 2000**



Source: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100 Percent Data

**Persons Age 85 or Older in Milwaukee County by Decade (1950-2000)**



Source: Census Population and Housing (1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000)



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Introduction

### Total Population

This report offers a statistical portrait of selected demographic characteristics of Milwaukee County's older adult population based on results of the 1990 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing. In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 940,164 persons in Milwaukee County. Of that total, 247,825 or 26.4% of Milwaukee County's total population were under 18 years of age, 539,150 or 57.3% were age 18 to 59, and 153,189 or 16.3% were age 60 or older. Those three broad age categories (under 18 years, 18 to 59 years, and 60 years and over) experienced different rates of change over the decade: +0.6%, -0.3%, and -11.2% respectively.

### Median Age

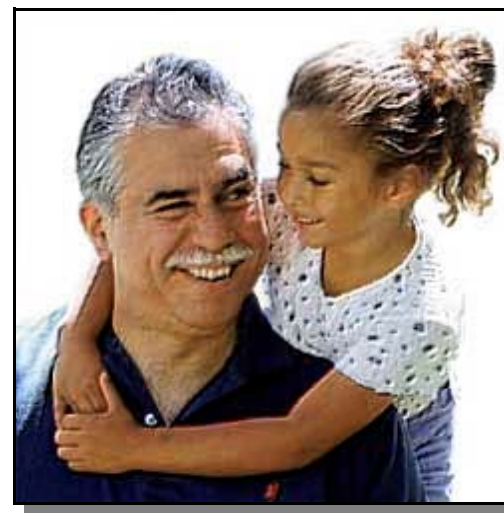
The median age in Milwaukee County increased 4.3% over the decade from 32.3 years in 1990 to 33.7 years in 2000. In addition, the composition of Milwaukee County's older adult population continues to evolve. In 1980, the older adult population consisted of 69.9% age 60 to 74 and 30.1% age 75 or older. In 1990, the older adult population included 66.0% age 60 to 74 and 34.0% age 75 or older. According to the 2000 Census, Milwaukee County's older adult population now consists of 59.7% age 60 to 74 and 40.3% age 75 or older.

### Older Adults

Most Milwaukee County elders are in relatively good health and are able to lead full and productive lives. They are financially independent and continue to make important contributions to community life. About 65% of Milwaukee County older adults are homeowners and, as such, serve as a stable presence in our neighborhoods and help to maintain local property values. Due primarily to pensions, Social Security, and the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI), about 91% of older adults have annual incomes above the federal poverty level.

Older adults are a major resource to Milwaukee County and the community should continue to make effective use of their time and abilities. At the same time, continued growth in the number of at risk, frail elders will result in increased demands for older adult services, such as in-home services, preventive health services, transportation, congregate and home delivered meals, and senior center programming as provided through Family Care entitlement, the Older Americans Act, and other programs. The growing number of persons age 75 or older has significant public policy implications, especially in the provision of long term care services. As persons age and their need for services increase, their ability to pay for such services tends to decrease.

*An elder is a person who is still growing, still a learner, still with potential, whose life continues to have within it promise for and connections to the future*  
—Author Unknown





# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Profile of Older adults in Milwaukee County

### Age Groups

In the first half of the 21st Century the United States will see a dramatic increase in the proportion of adults 60 and older. Wisconsin and Milwaukee County, likewise, will reflect this increasing elderly population.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the 60 and older population in Wisconsin comprised 907,552 persons and of this population, 16.9% lived in Milwaukee County. Within Milwaukee County residents age 60 or older made up 16.3% of the County's total population and numbered 153,189 persons.

Milwaukee County's older adult population by age category shows persons age 60-64 comprised 20.6% (31,504) of older adults, persons age 65-69 comprised 19.3% (29,641), persons age 70-74 comprised 19.8% (30,279), persons 75-79 comprised 17.5% (26,877), persons age 80-84 comprised 12.0% (18,376), and those age 85 or older comprised 10.8% (16,512) of older adults in the county.

The fastest growing category of the adult population are the 16,512 persons ages 85 or older. Since 1950 there has been a 477% increase

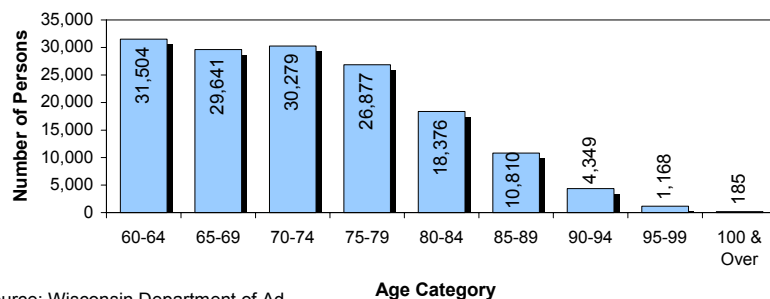
in this age category. The number of person's age 85 or older grew from 2,860 in 1950 to 16,512 in 2000. From 1990 to 2000, this age group increased 12.5% from 14,673 to 16,512. Of that age category, persons age 85-89 numbered 10,810 (65.5%), persons age 90-94 numbered 4,349 (26.3%), persons age 95-99 numbered 1,168 (7.1%), and those age 100 or older numbered 185 (1.1%) of persons age 85 or older.

### Age and Gender

Women generally have a greater life expectancy than men, therefore comprise the majority of older adults. Comparing age groups shows that among persons age 60-64, there are 119 women for every 100 men. Among persons age 65-74, there are 132 women for 100 men. Among persons age 75-84, there are 166 women for every 100 men and among persons age 85 and older, there are 287 women for every 100 men.

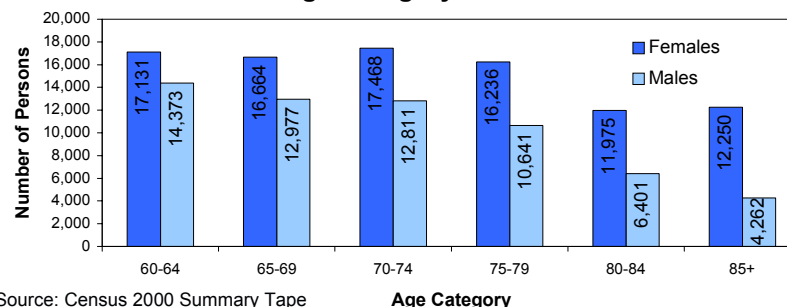
While the ratio between women and men narrowed in the last decade for persons age 65 or older it has widened among persons age 60 to 64. For persons age 100 or older 85.4% (158) are women and only 14.6% (27) are men.

**Milwaukee County's 60+ Population by Age Category Year 2000**



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Wisconsin Population 2030

**Milwaukee County Older Population by Gender and Age Category Year 2000**



Source: Census 2000 Summary Tape File 1 (SF1) 100 Percent Data

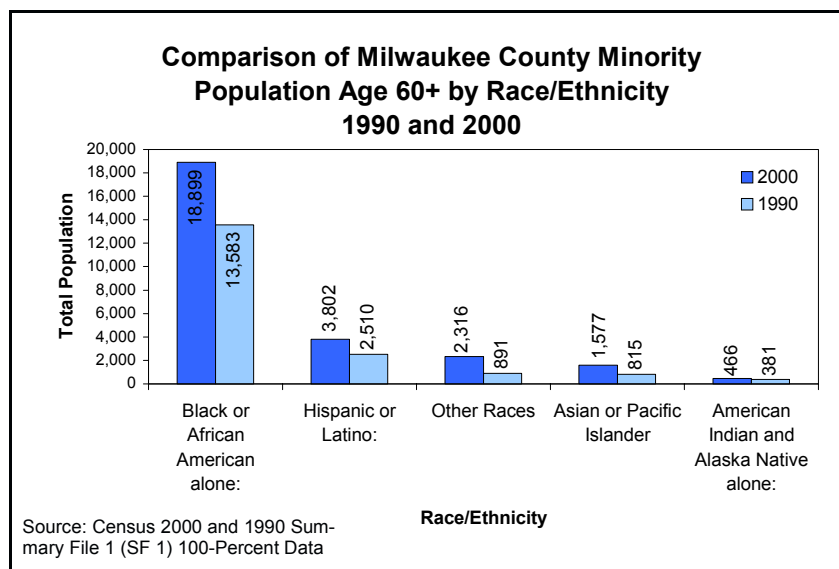
# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Race/Ethnicity of Older Adults in Milwaukee County

### Minority Groups

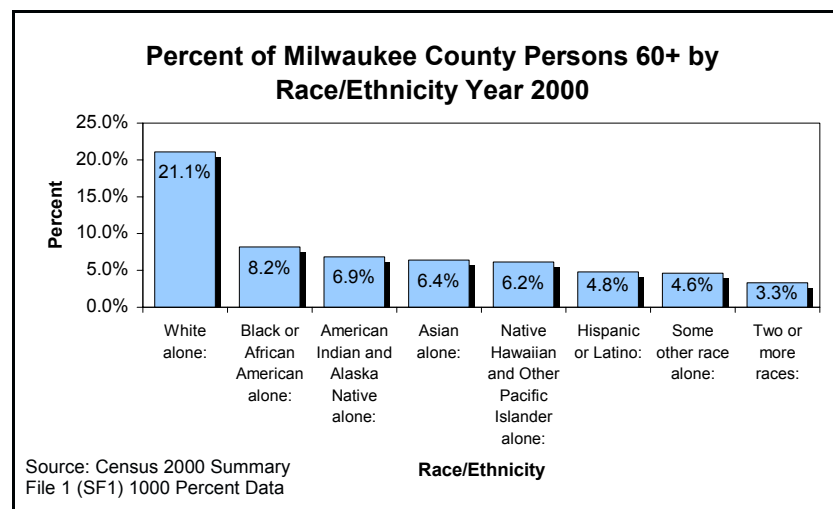
Milwaukee County's population of racial minorities age 60 or older is the fastest growing segment of the older adult population. Between 1990 and 2000 the minority population increased 48.4%, a total of 7,588 persons. In comparison, the population of elderly whites decreased by -17.1%, a total of 26,823 persons.

In 2000, 84.8% of Milwaukee County's residents age 60 or over were White, 12.3% were Black and 2.9% were of Other races. The percent of minority elders in Milwaukee County's older adult population decreases with age. According to the 2000 Census, 22.7% of persons age 60 to 64 are minority elders while minorities comprise just 8.0% of person's age 85 or older. The numbers for minority populations in 1990 and 2000 can be seen in the graph at the bottom. Definitions of race used by the Census bureau changed between the 1990 and 2000 Census, therefore, numerical comparisons are approximations and not absolutes.



In 2000, elderly persons of a racial minority comprised 15.2% (23,258) of the total elderly population compared to only 9.1% (15,670) in 1990. During this period, the Black or African American population increased 39.1% (5,316), Hispanic or Latino elders increased 51.1% (1,292), elders of Other Races increased 159.9% (1,425), Asian or Pacific Islander elders increase 93.5% (762), and American Indian and Alaska Native increased 22.3% (85).

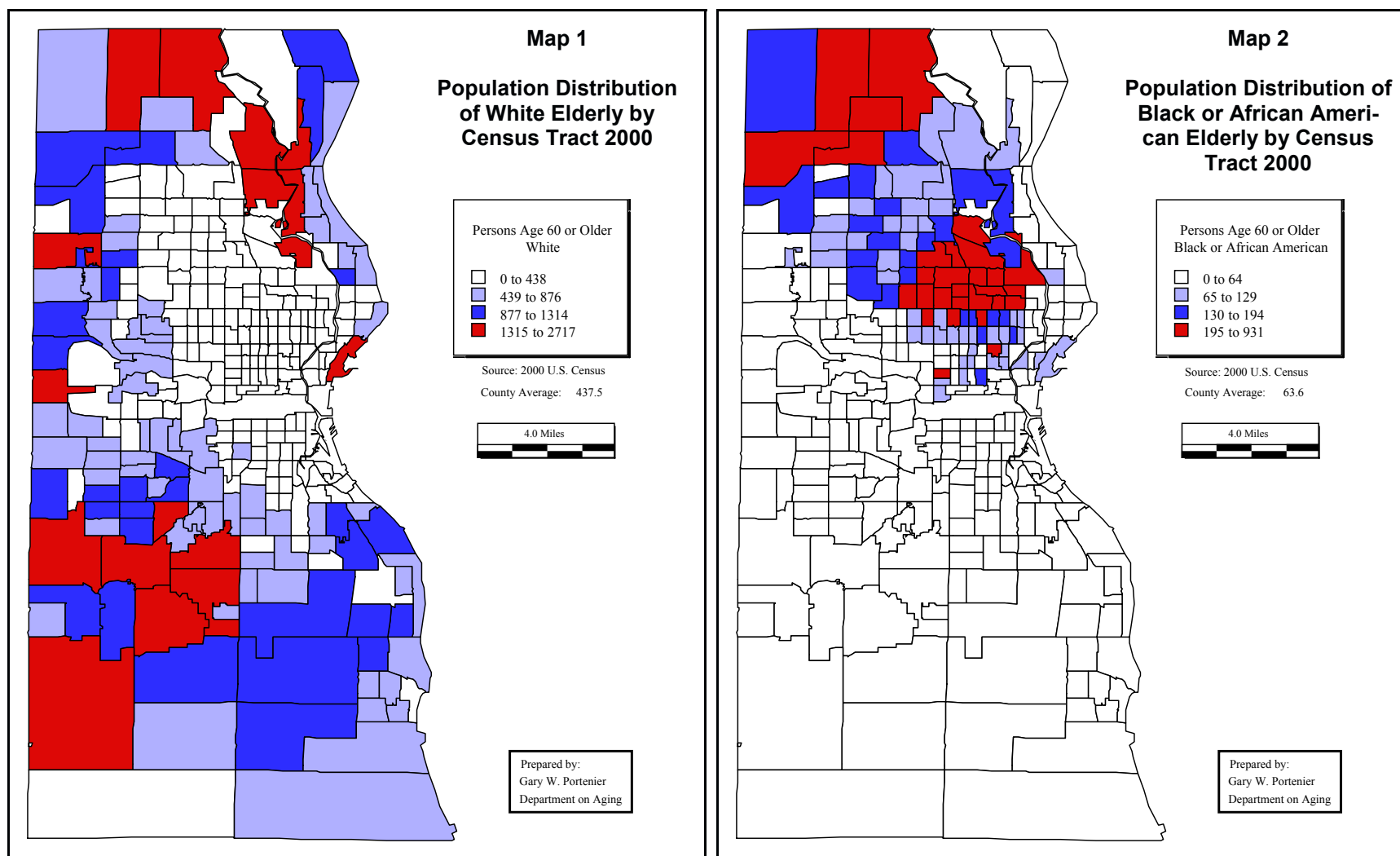
The composition of Milwaukee County's total elderly population also differs within race/ethnicity categories. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 21.1% of Whites were age 60 and over, 8.2% of Blacks or African American were age 60 and over, 4.6% of Hispanics or Latinos were age 60 and over, 6.9% of American Indian and Alaska Natives were 60 and over, 6.4% of Asians were 60 and over, 6.2% of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander were 60 and over, 3.3% of Other Races were 60 and over, and 4.8% of persons of Two or more races were age 60 and over. The differences result from higher fertility rates and higher mortality rates below age 60 for minority populations.



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Population Distribution by Age and Race/Ethnicity

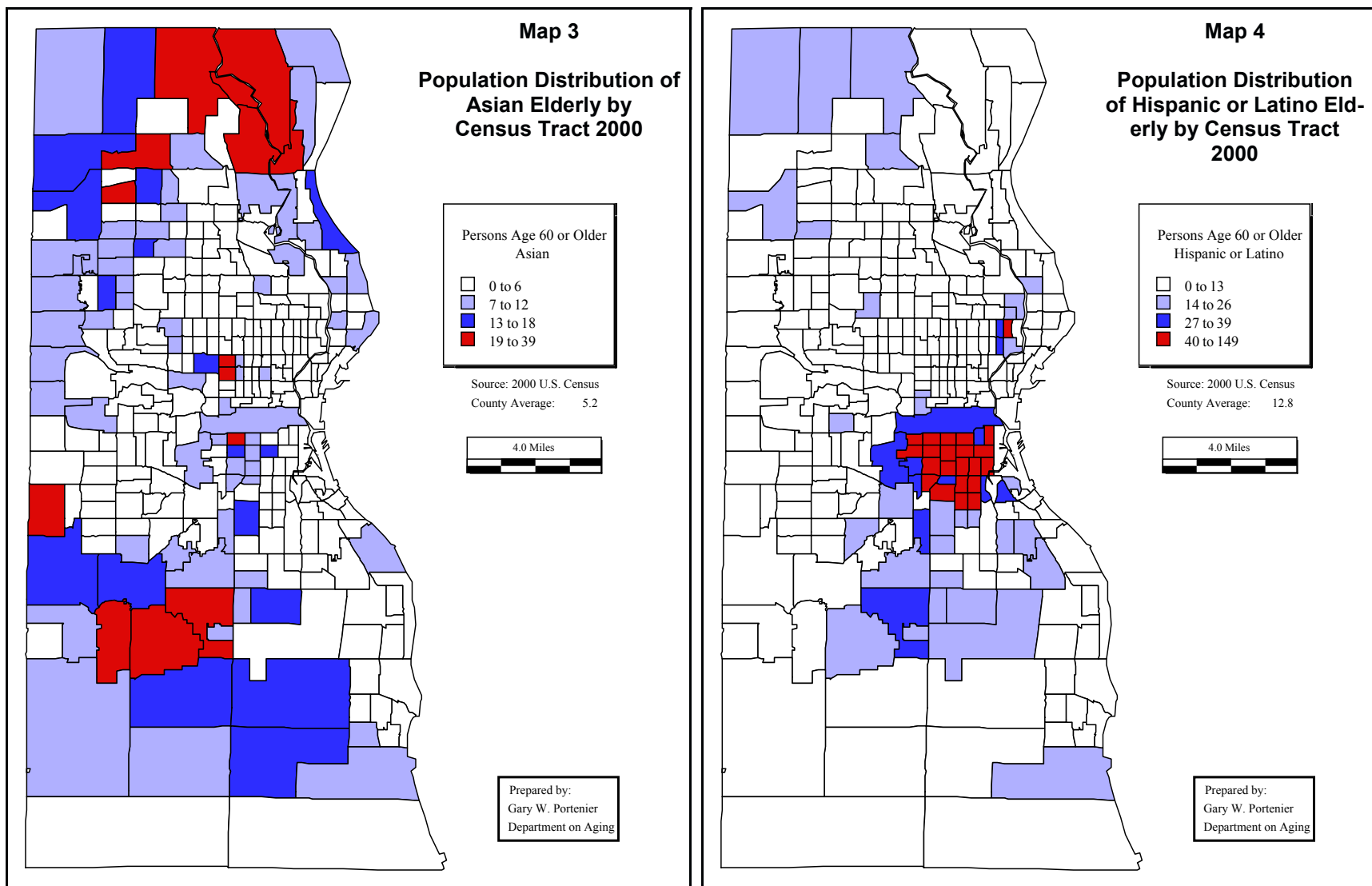
62.5% of minorities 60 and older living in Wisconsin reside in Milwaukee County. The population consists of 82.0% of Blacks or African Americans, 32.1% of Asians, 21.8% of Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, 13.2% of American Indians or Alaska Natives, 54.0% of Some other race, 30.8% of Two or more races. Of the 8,035 Hispanic or Latino elders living in Wisconsin, 47.3% (3,802) reside in the County.



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Population Distribution by Age and Race/Ethnicity

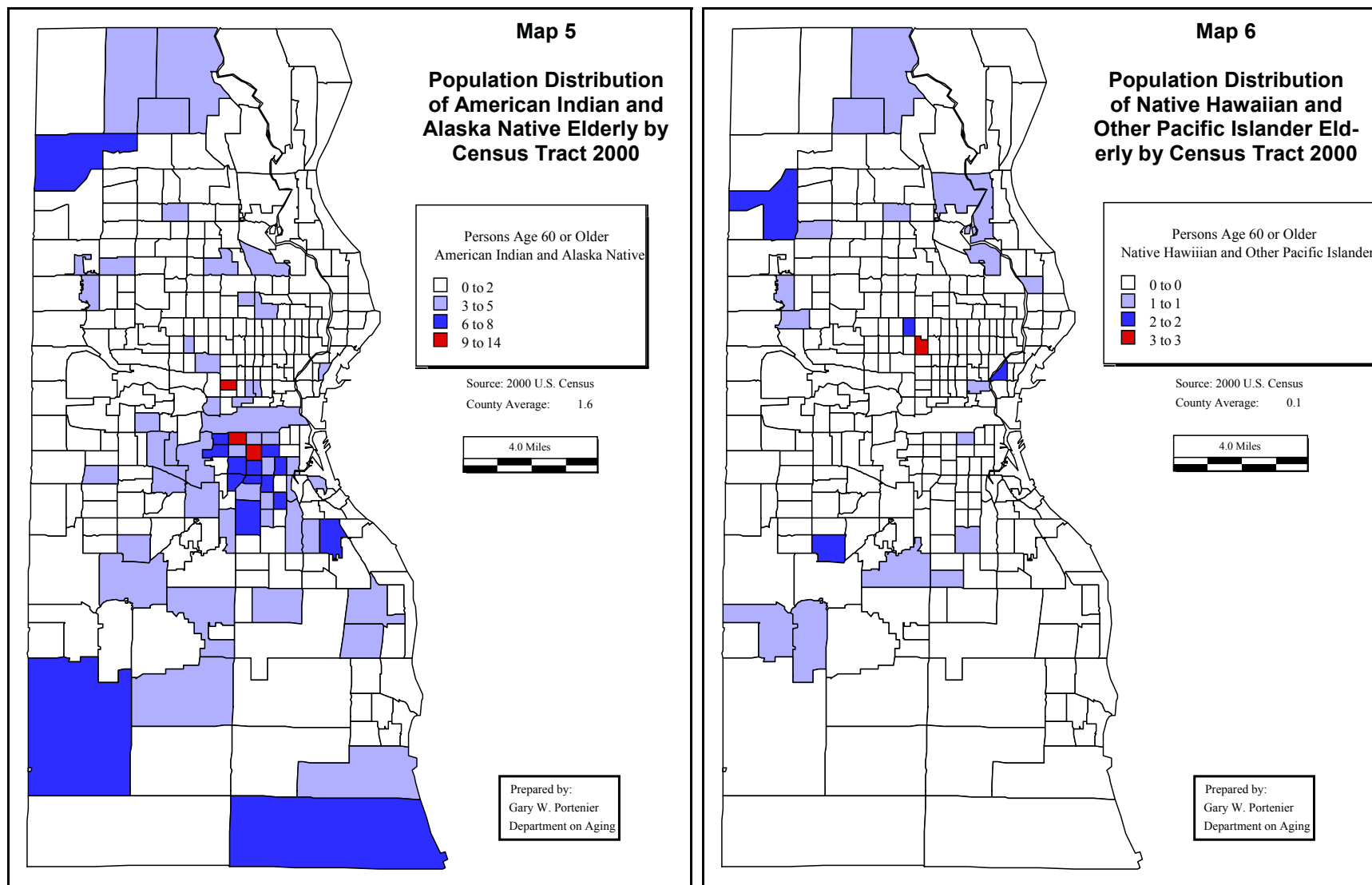
Map 3 & 4: Population Distribution of Asian and Hispanic or Latino Elders by Census Tract 2000



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Population Distribution by Age and Race/Ethnicity

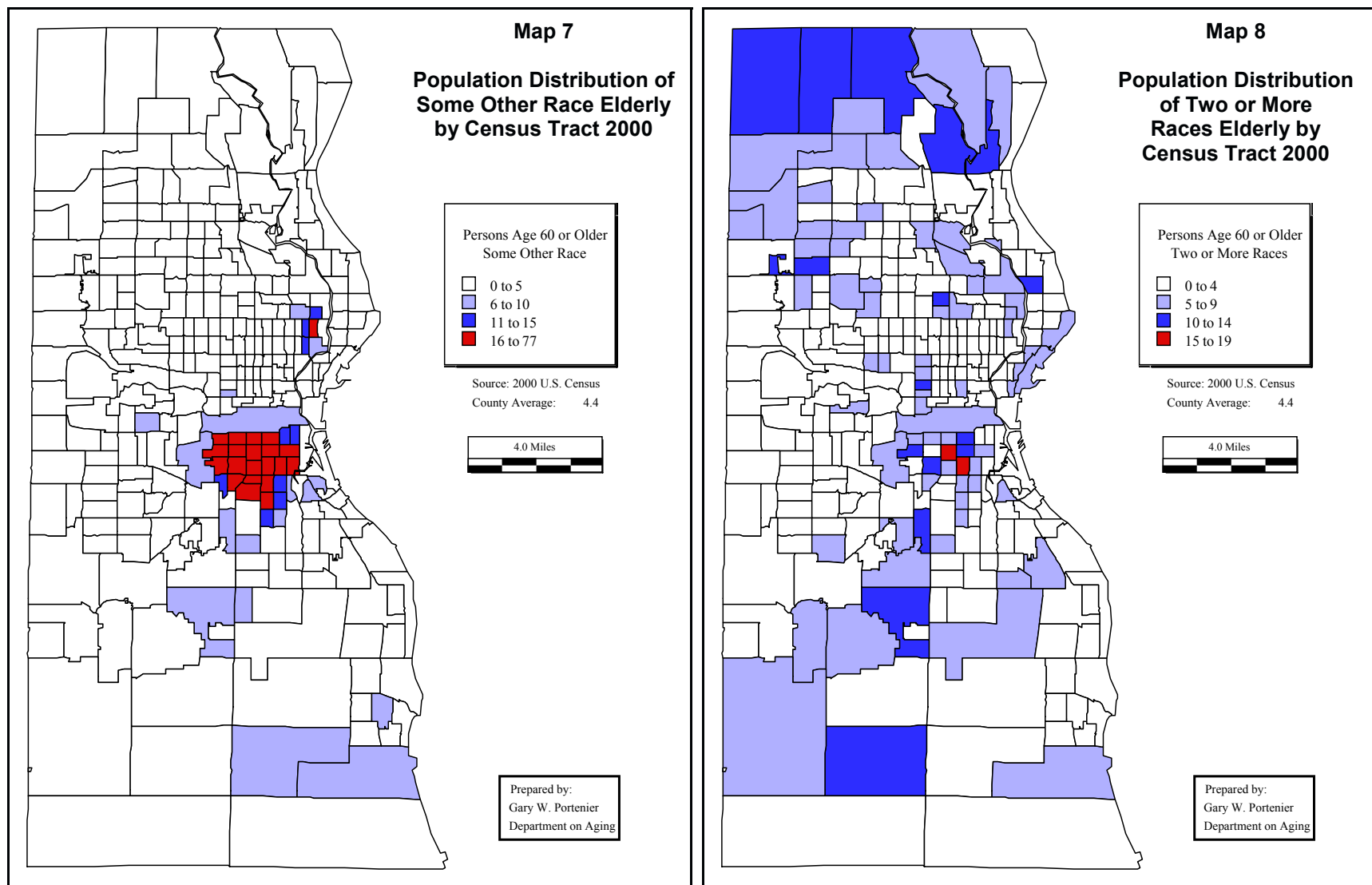
**Map 5 & 6: Population Distribution of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander by Census Tract 2000**



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Population Distribution by Age and Race/Ethnicity

Map 7 & 8: Population Distribution of Some Other Race and Two or More Races by Census Tract 2000



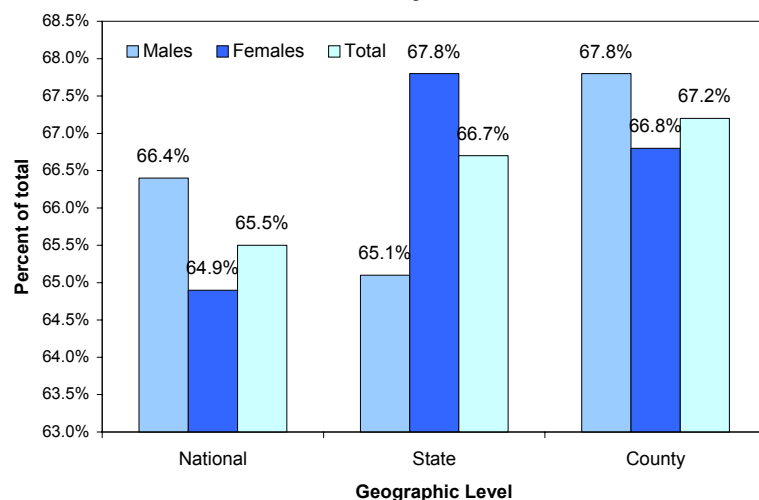
# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Educational Attainment

### High School or Equivalent

The educational level of adults 65 and older living in Milwaukee County is typical when compared with the same population at both the state and national levels. According to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing, 67.8% of males and 66.8% of females age 65 or older in Milwaukee County were high school graduates. In comparison, for the U.S., 66.4% of males and 64.9% of females age 65 and older were high school graduates. In the state of Wisconsin, 65.1% of males and 67.8% of females had at least a high school diploma or equivalency. However, this percentage hides the disparity between Whites and minority groups. As can be seen in the table at the bottom right, the majority of persons 65 and older living in Milwaukee county that hold a high school diploma or equivalency are White.

**Percent of Persons 65+, High School Diploma or Equivalent 2000: Comparison of National, State, and County Levels**



Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing Summary File 3 (SF3) Sample Data

### Secondary Degree, Males

Among males age 65 or older in Milwaukee County educational attainment beyond high school is generally higher than both the national and state levels. In Milwaukee County 20.3% have at least one college degree (Associate, 2.4%; Bachelor, 10.2%; and Graduate or Professional, 7.7%). In addition, 16.3% age 65 or older completed some college work after high school. In comparison, at the national level, 22.9% of males have at least one college degree but only 15.9% have completed some college course work. For the state of Wisconsin, 17.4% of males have at least one college degree while only 14% have completed some college.

### Secondary Degree, Females

Among females age 65 or older in Milwaukee County, 13.5% have at least one college degree (Associate, 1.9%; Bachelor, 7.2%; and Graduate or Professional, 4.4%). In addition, 13.7% age 65 or older have completed some college work after high school. The County average falls short of national levels where 14.3% have at least one college degree and 15.4% have completed at least some college course work. However, among those that have at least one college degree or completed some college course work, Milwaukee County is higher than the state levels of 12.8% and 13.5%, respectively.

**Milwaukee County 65 and Older Population with a High School Diploma or Equivalency**

	Total	Percent
Total, All Groups Combined	44,163	100.0%
White alone	40,976	92.7%
Black or African American Alone	2,607	5.9%
Two or more races alone	225	5.1%
Asian alone	168	0.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	94	0.2%
Some other race alone	93	0.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino of any race	384	0.9%

Source: Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF4) Sample data



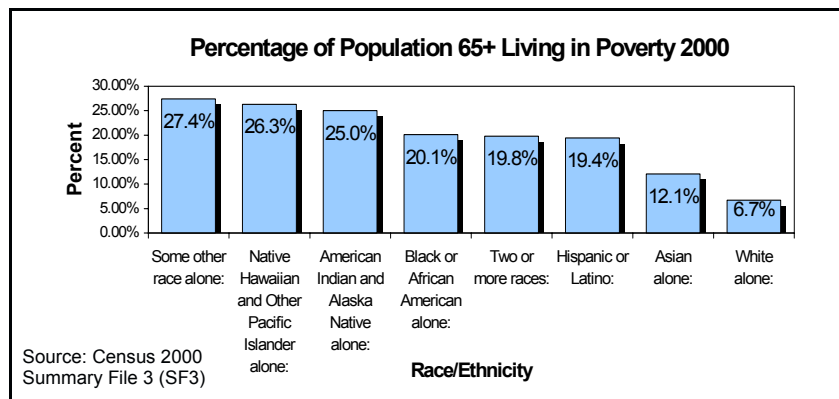
# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Income & Poverty Status

### Income & Poverty Status

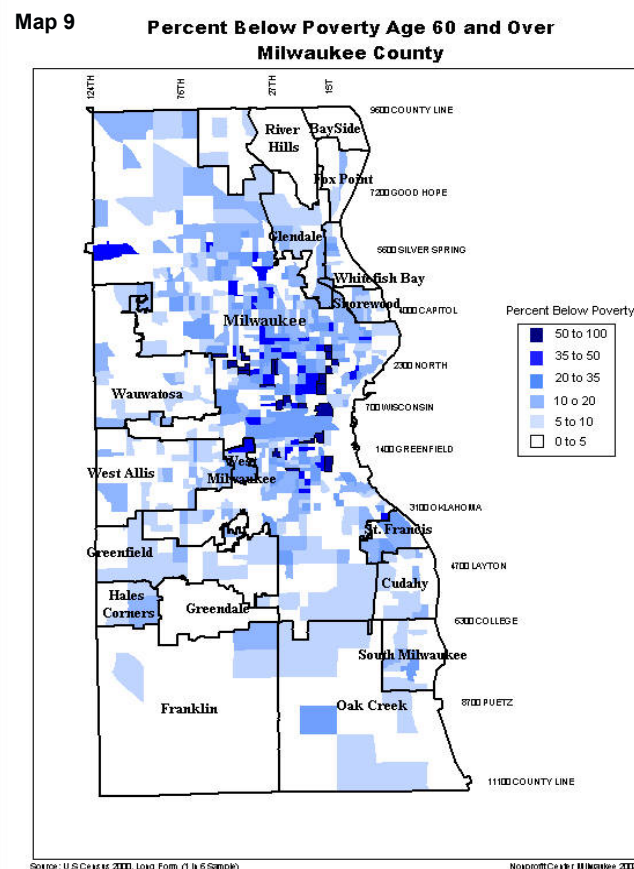
Persons 65 and older are at far greater risk of living in poverty. In 1999 the federal poverty level for those 65 and older in a one person household was \$8,259, for two people \$10,409, and for two people plus one child \$11,824. While only 13.17% of households were at or under the \$10,000 income level, the graph at the bottom shows that minority populations, with little exception, represented the largest portion of households near or under the poverty level in 2000.

The poverty level of the elderly population living in the state decreased slightly when comparing 1990 to 2000. In 1990, 8.0% of persons age 65 or older in Milwaukee County were living in poverty compared to the state's average of 9.1%. In 2000, the state's poverty level for the elderly population dropped to 7.4% while the poverty level of the elderly population in Milwaukee County increased to 8.5%. One possible explanation for this was the increase in minority populations that typically experience higher levels of poverty at all age levels. The poverty rate for elderly living in Milwaukee County is also higher for individuals 75 years and older, 9.43%, compared to those age 65 to 74 at 7.63% (U.S. Census Bureau, Summary of Occupation, Income, and Poverty Characteristics: 1990; Poverty Status in 1999: 2000). The poverty rate continues to increase and



according to the 2002 American Community Survey, 11% of people age 65 or older in Milwaukee County were living in poverty.

When compared by race/ethnic category, minority populations are at a greater risk of living in poverty than the population as a whole. According to the 2000 Census, the poverty rate for White elders was 6.7%, the poverty rate for Black or African American elders was 20.1%, for American Indian and Alaska Native elders 25.0%, for Asian elders 12.1%, for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander elders 26.3%, for elders of Some Other Race 27.4%, and for Hispanic or Latino elders 19.4%.



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

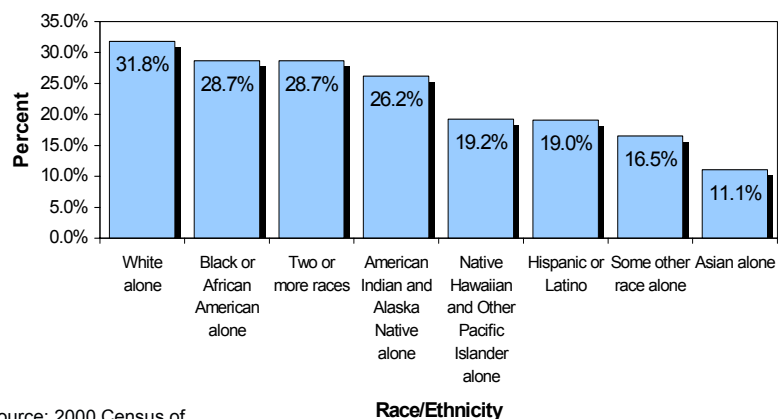
## Housing & Marital Status

### Living Alone

According to the 2000 Census, there were 377,729 occupied housing units in Milwaukee County with 23.0% (86,733) having at least one person age 65 or older. Of total occupied units, 21.2% (79,979) have a “household head” age 65 or older with 65.9% of these units owner occupied and with the remaining rental occupied. Of persons age 60 and older, 31.1% live alone and among those age 75 and older, 39.4% live alone. Among residents age 65 and older, 5.0% (6,091) lived in nursing homes (Census 2000, Summary File 1).

A higher percentage of White elders age 60 and older live alone than elders from racial and ethnic minorities, 31.8% compared to only 26.7%. Of those age 75 and older, 40.2% of White elders live alone compared to only 31.2% of minority elders. In addition, women are more likely than men to live alone. In 2000, 31,135 women 65 and older lived alone compared to only 10,372 men (2000 Census Summary File 3 (SF3) Sample Data).

**Percent of Persons 60 and Older Living Alone by Race/Ethnicity**



Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing

### Marital Status

Fewer women than men age 60 and older are married, 40.7% compared to 69.7%. This difference holds true in all age categories above 60. Among persons age 85 or older, 52.9% of men but only 19.9% of women are married. Among women age 60 and older, 40.3% are widowed and 70.1% age 85 or older are widowed. These factors contribute to the higher rates of older women living alone.

**Comparison of Older Adults Marital Status 2000 & 1990**

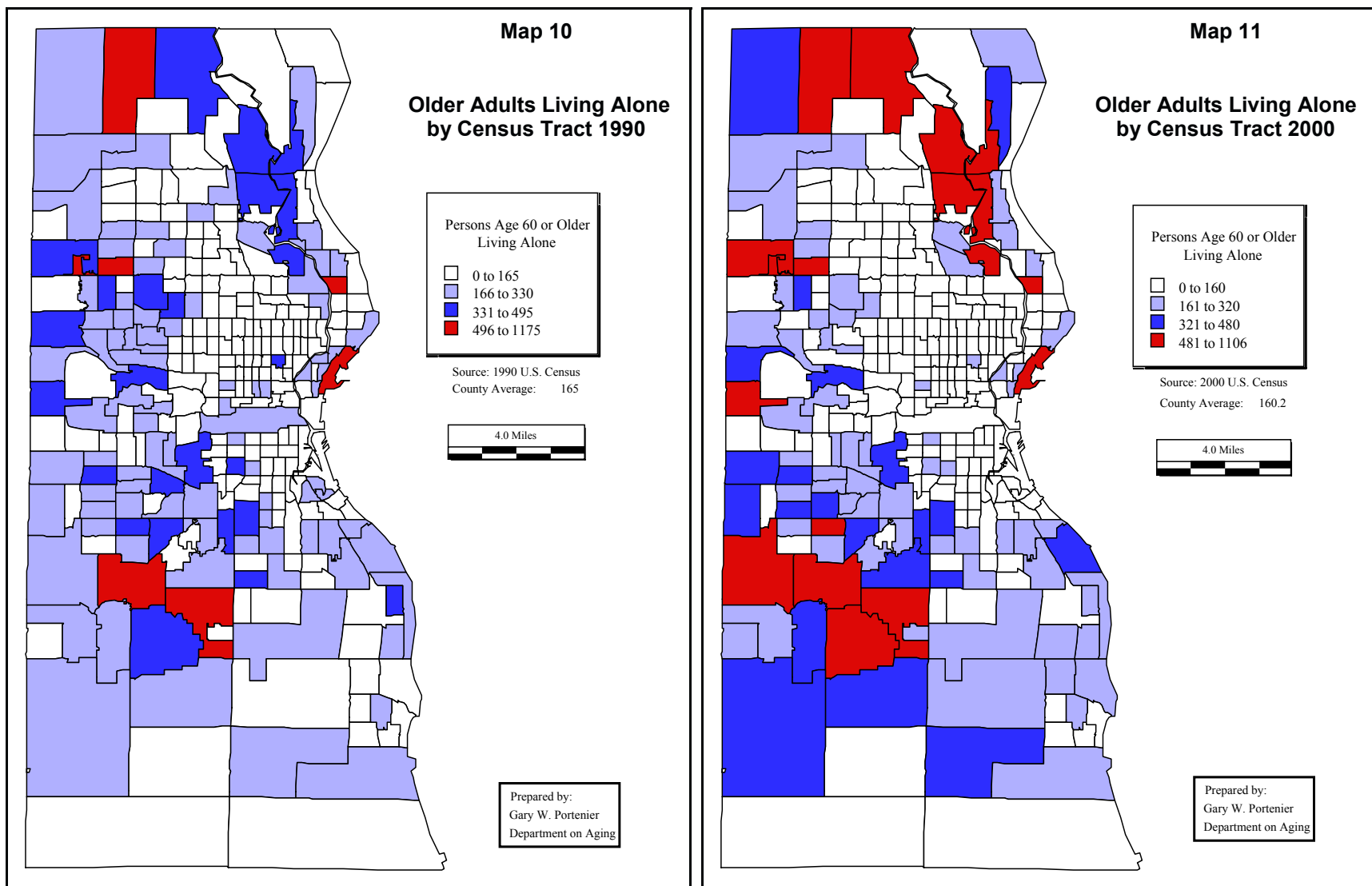
Marital Status	2000		1990	
	Male 60+	Female 60+	Male 60+	Female 60+
Married	67.61%	40.71%	72.70%	39.88%
Widowed	13.28%	40.34%	12.26%	43.56%
Divorced or Separated	10.73%	11.72%	7.75%	8.29%
Single (Never Married)	8.38%	7.23%	7.29%	8.27%

Data Set: Census 2000 & 1990 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data

# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Housing & Marital Status

Map 10 & 11: Comparison of older adults living alone in 1990 and 2000 by Census Tract



# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Health Status

### Health Status

In 2002, 16% of the Milwaukee County household population reported to be in fair or poor health. In comparison, only 11% of the Wisconsin household population reported to be in fair or poor health. In addition, individuals more likely to report being in fair or poor health were people age 45 and over, Blacks, City of Milwaukee residents, the less educated, those with low incomes, children living in homes with no employed adults, and those without health insurance the past year (2002 Wisconsin Family Health Survey).

### Disability Status

During 2000, an individual celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday could expect to live on average an additional 18 years (19.2 years for women, 16.3 years for men). The impact of health status on quality of life cannot be overstated, particularly for individuals during their later years. Unfortunately, one-in-five (19.3%) persons age 50 and older in Milwaukee County rate their health status as either fair or poor (Mathematica). Many older adults experience key health risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity that place them at increased risk for disability and death. Disability affects a significant proportion of the older adult population in the county. More than 45,624 individuals age 65+ in the county live with a disability. The rate of disability among older adults in the county at 39.7% is significantly higher than among older adults throughout the state at 36.5% (US Census 2000). In fact, Milwaukee County has the highest proportion of vulnerable adults in the community at 46.5% among 13 sites surveyed nationally (Mathematica).

The chance of a person living with at least one disability increases with age. For those age 65-74, 31.3% had a disability and for those age 75 and older, 54.7%. Women are also more likely than men to suffer from at least one disability. While only 38.2% of men suffered from one or more disabilities, 47.5% of females reported having at least one disability (2002 American Community Survey).

### Mortality

Mortality rates among older adults (65+) in Milwaukee County are higher than in the state. During 2001, some 6,643 older adult deaths comprised a countywide mortality rate of 5475.6 per 100,000, much higher than the Wisconsin state rate during the same year of 5160.9 per 100,000. The leading causes of death among older adults in the county include many of those associated with chronic conditions including Heart Disease, Lung and Other Cancers, Cerebrovascular Disease, Cardio Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Hypertension (Public Health Profile 2001).

### Morbidity

Chronic health conditions are epidemic among older adults in Milwaukee County and are a major cause of disease and death. Four of five (79%) older adults in Milwaukee County have one or more chronic health conditions including cancer, diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, heart attack, stroke, asthma, emphysema of chronic bronchitis, and arthritis (WI Family Health Survey 1994-98). This is confirmed with the findings of the Mathematica Policy Research Inc. Study in which a significant proportion of older adults reported one or more physician diagnosed health conditions including Hypertension or high blood pressure (47.3%), Heart attack or other heart disease (31.9%), Cancer (9.1%), Diabetes (27.7%), Arthritis (50.9%), Asthma (10.3%), Other lung Disease (12.6%), Stroke (11.5%), and Kidney failure (2.1%). Relatedly, health problems were cited by 22% of vulnerable adults as the reason they were unable to leave their home more than three days per week (Mathematica). The age 65+ population in Milwaukee County exhibits the highest numbers and rates of hospitalization among all age groups in the county and is hospitalized at a rate higher than for older adults throughout the state. During 2001, older adults in the county were hospitalized 45,730 times at a rate of 377.0 per 1000, higher than the Wisconsin hospitalization rate for older adults of 317.6 per 1000 during the same year (Public Health Profile 2001).

# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Population Change

### 1990 to 2000

Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Milwaukee County residents 60 and older declined 11.2% from 172,415 persons to 153,189. In comparison, there was little change in the population of residents age 0-59. Over the decade the population age 0-59 increased by 118 persons from 786,857 in 1990 to 186,975 in 2000.

### Age Category

Between 1990 and 2000, Milwaukee County's 60 and older population declined 24.7% for persons age 60 to 64 from 41,828 in 1990 to 31,504 in 2000. Persons age 65 to 74 declined 16.7% from 71,955 to 59,920. Individuals between the ages of 75 and 84 increased 2.9% from 43,959 to 45,253 and persons 85 and older increased 12.5% from 14,673 to 16,512.

### Population Distribution

Over the last decade the City of Milwaukee experienced a 19.5% decrease in the number of persons 60 and older, from 103,109 in 1990 to 82,961 in 2000. This decrease was offset by a small increase (1.3%) in the number of persons age 60+ living in suburban communities, from 69,306 in 1990 to 70,228 in 2000. Of the eighteen suburban communities in Milwaukee County, eight experienced a net decline of 5,347 persons 60+ and ten had a net increase of 6,269 persons age 60 and older.

The largest percentage increases among older adults occurred in selected suburban communities. The largest increases occurred in Franklin (63.7%), Oak Creek (47.8%), Greendale (42.9%), Brown Deer (24.1%), and Greenfield (17.4%). The largest decreases occurred in the City of Milwaukee, Shorewood, and Whitefish Bay.

### 2000 to 2030

Between 2000 and 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Administration estimates the number of adults 60 and older living in

Milwaukee County will increase 7.9% from 153,189 to 165,348 reaching 17% of the County's total population. By 2030, the 60 and older population is expected to reach 241,984 persons approximately 23.5% of the County's total population.

### Age Category

By 2010, the number of persons age 60 to 64 is expected to increase 50% from 31,504 to 47,242 persons as the Baby Boom generation (persons born between 1946 through 1964) reaches age 60. Between 2000 and 2030 this population is expected to increase 70.5% and total 53,712 persons.

By 2010, the number of persons age 70 to 79 is expected to decrease 17.7% from 57,156 to 47,025, as persons born during the Great Depression and World War II when birth rates were low reach this age range. However, by 2030 the number of persons in this age group is expected to reach 88,130 persons, an increase of 54.2% from the year 2000.

By 2010, the number of persons age 85 or older is expected to increase 24.9% from 16,512 to 20,630 persons. By 2030 this population is expected to increase 33.3% from 16,512 to 22,009 persons.

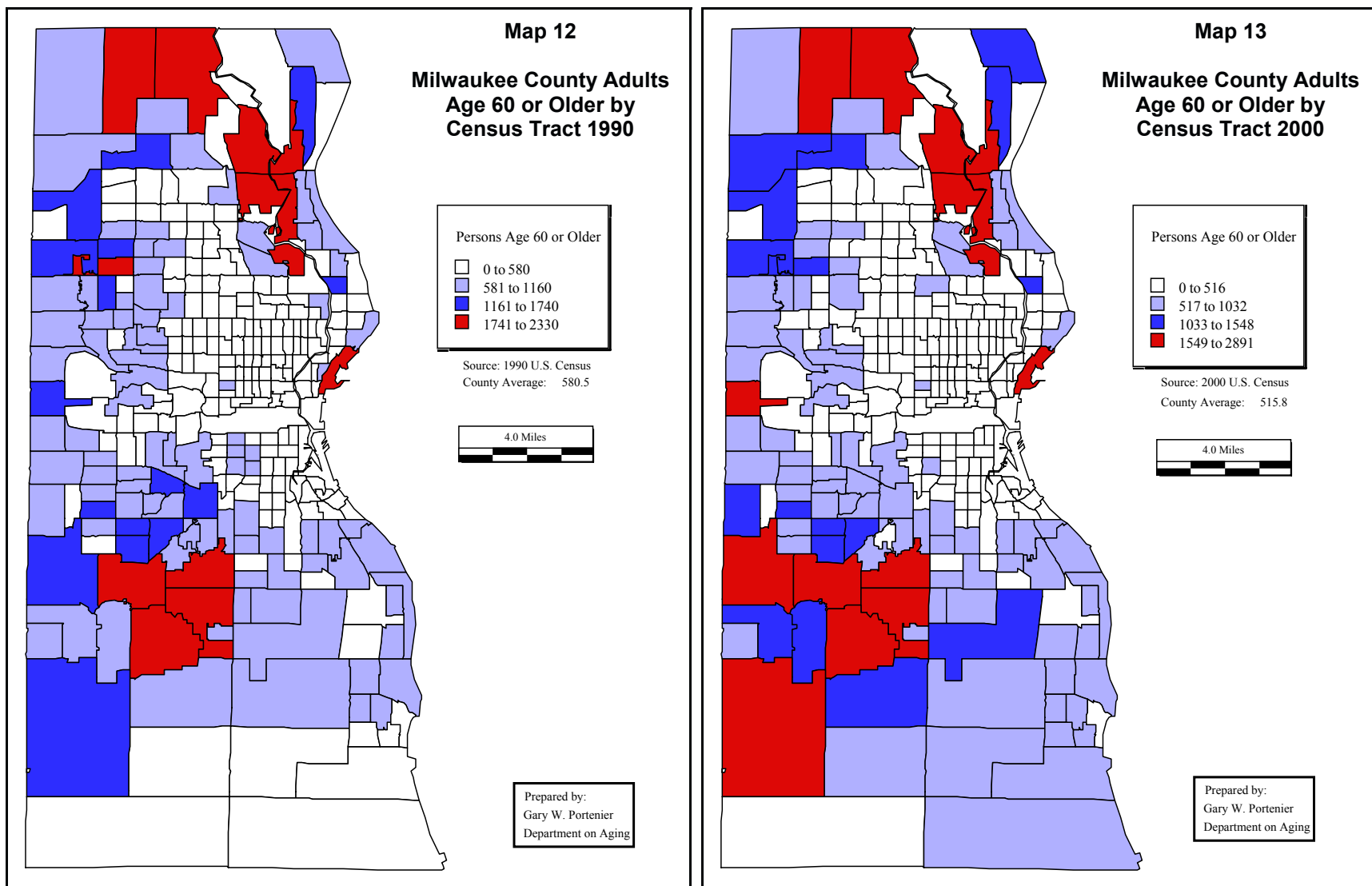
By 2010, the number of Centenarians living in the county is expected to increase 56.2% from 185 to 289 persons. By 2030 this population is expected to increase an amazing 254.1% from 185 to 655 persons.

The maps on the following page show comparisons of Milwaukee County's older adult population distribution in 1990 to 2000.

# The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

## Population Distribution

Map 12 & 13: Population Distribution of Older Adults by Census Tract 1990 and 2000





# *The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County*

## **Conclusion**

### **Wisconsin's Aging Population**

Wisconsin's 65 and older population is projected to slowly increase up to the year 2010 when it will dramatically increase as the Baby Boomers begin to reach retirement age. The state's elderly population is expected to expand 90% from 702,553 in 2000 to 1,336,384 in 2030. The 85 and older population is expected to increase nearly 66% from 95,000 in 2000 to a projected 158,000 in 2030. In addition, persons age 100 and older is projected to increase 290% from 1,000 in 2000 to 3,900 in 2030 (Wisconsin Department of Administration).

### **Milwaukee County's Aging Population**

Milwaukee County mirrors the state trend of an increasing elderly population. The 60 and older population living in Milwaukee County has been increasing throughout the second half of the 20th Century with exception from 1990 to 2000. The 1990s saw a decrease in the elderly population as those that were born during the Great Depression reached retirement age and a number of residents moved out of the county preceding or following retirement. Since 1950 the 60+ population increased 43% from 107,114 in 1950 to 153,189 in 2000. Projections indicate that by 2010 the 60 and older population will increase to 165,348 and by 2030 swell to 241,948 persons, an increase of 58% from 2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, racial minorities have been the fastest growing segment of the 60 and older population living in Milwaukee County. While the total number of White elders decreased from 156,745 in 1990 to 129,931 in 2000, the total number of minority elders increased from 15,670 in 1990 to 23,258.

### **Poverty Status**

One unfortunate aspect in aging is the increase in poverty level. According to the 2000 Census, the poverty level for the 65 and older population living in Milwaukee County was 8.5% and 13.17% of

households headed by a person 65 and older had an income level at or under \$10,000; just above the federal poverty level of \$8,259 for one person but below the \$10,409 level for two people. The poverty level is also more common among older minority adults than for Whites. As a whole, elderly minorities were more than twice as likely to live in poverty than elderly White.

### **Health Status**

As people continue to live longer and as the number of the elderly continue to grow so does the likelihood of individuals living with chronic-illness and disability. In 2002, 16% of the Milwaukee County household population reported to be in fair or poor health and for individuals 50 and older this percentage increased to 19.3%. According to the 2000 Census, the disability rate for persons 65 and older in Milwaukee County was 39.7%. These percentages are of concern to service providers because many older adults are choosing to continue aging in their home and, as such, will require increased in-home medical care and assistance with daily activities.

### **Conclusion**

The aging population throughout the United States, Wisconsin, and Milwaukee County is of particular concern for policy makers and older adult service providers. The Baby Boom generation will soon become the 65 and older population and just as they impacted the educational system and the labor market in prior years they will soon be influencing the services and programs used by an elderly population. The Boomers will demand an increase and improvement to services including health care programs, medical care, and housing options. This report summarizes key demographic data and trends of Milwaukee County's older adult population. Improved understanding of these aging trends is vital for both the public and private sectors to anticipate and respond to the needs of future cohorts of the elderly population.